



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letter dated 28 July 2008 to the President of the Security Council for the month of July 2008 (S/2008/494) informing the latter about the progress of the bilateral consultative process between Thailand and Cambodia, I wish to take this opportunity to further inform you about the latest progress of this bilateral process.

1. Pursuant to the first meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Cambodia in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia on 28 July 2008, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries held a second meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern in the town of Cha-Am in Thailand on 18 and 19 August 2008. Like the first meeting, the Cha-Am meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere reflecting the warmth of relations between the two neighbouring countries and the spirit of ASEAN solidarity. Building on the progress made at the first meeting in Siem Reap, both sides succeeded in making further progress at the second meeting. The two sides warmly welcomed the reduction of tensions in the border area adjacent to the Temple of Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear following the redeployment of their respective troops from the area that preceded the Cha-Am meeting. Both sides were of the view that this progress reflected the success of the bilateral talks between the two countries.

2. The results of the second Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cha-Am on 18 and 19 August 2008 are as follows:

2.1 Both sides welcomed the first-phase redeployment of their respective troops out of the "Keo Sikha Kiri Svava" Pagoda, the area surrounding the Pagoda, and the Temple of Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear, and agreed to convene a second meeting between the Head of the Cambodian Temporary Coordinating Task Force and the Head of the Thai Regional Border Committee on 29 August 2008 in Cambodia to discuss the second phase of redeployment.

2.2 Both sides agreed to recommend to their respective Governments that the next meeting of the Thailand-Cambodia Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary be convened early in October 2008 to discuss issues related to the survey and demarcation of the relevant sector under the terms of reference and master plan of the Joint Boundary Commission (Khao Sattasom/Phnom Sethisom — BP1), together with Thai and Cambodian legal experts.



2.3 The Foreign Ministers of the two countries will meet again after the meeting of the Joint Boundary Commission and the legal experts.

2.4 Both sides agreed to recommend to their respective Governments to enter into a provisional arrangement, pending completion of the work of the Joint Boundary Commission in the Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear area. For Thailand, such a provisional arrangement may be entered into only in accordance with the Thai constitutional and domestic legal procedures and requirements.

2.5 Both sides agreed to consider the issue of the Ta Muen/Tamone Temples at the next Foreign Ministers' meeting.

3. The outcome of this second Foreign Ministers' meeting, once again, firmly underlines the common will and determination of both Thailand and Cambodia, neighbours for life and members of the ASEAN family, to move ahead within the framework of the bilateral consultative process with a view to arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Don **Pramudwinai**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations

**Security Council**

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18 August 2008

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**Letter dated 18 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the statement delivered by the representative of the United States of America to the Security Council, at its 5949th meeting, held on 6 August 2008 on the item entitled "The situation concerning Iraq" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Bashar Ja'afari
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The statement made by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America at the Security Council meeting of 6 August 2008 contained provocative claims regarding the Syrian Arab Republic. Those claims are without foundation and, like previous claims of that kind, lack the slightest credibility. As has become customary, they belong in the context of misleading and baseless United States policies aimed at disowning responsibility for the failure of United States forces to achieve peace and security in Iraq, and of placing the blame elsewhere. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects such accusations.

The Syrian Arab Republic wishes again to stress that it is as concerned about security and stability in Iraq as it is concerned about security and stability within its own borders. The two countries are by nature closely intertwined strategically and geographically. The numerous connections between them are underscored by the ties of history and language; as well as by social, family and economic links. It should be emphasized once again that while the Syrian Arab Republic fulfils all of its duties with regard to preserving the security, sovereignty, independence and stability of Iraq, the United States as the occupying Power has a duty to honour its commitments. This is especially true given that Iraq continues to suffer as a result of the United States' policies and of its failed military adventure, the repercussions of which have been felt throughout the region.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic again draws attention to the letter addressed by its Permanent Representative to the President of the Security Council (document S/2008/321, issued on 13 May 2008), which underlines the unilateral measures that it has taken to secure the borders.

The Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and of Iraq are progressing steadily and successfully in working together to secure the borders and prevent infiltration. Their cooperation has led to substantial achievements, which have gained the praise of senior Iraqi officials and of a number of United States military officials. One United States military official described that cooperation as action of the most intense kind, and stated that it had led to a marked decrease in the number of infiltrators. The recommendations adopted at the second meeting of the Committee for Security Coordination and Cooperation of States neighbouring Iraq, held in Damascus on 13 and 14 April 2008, welcomed the "positive cooperation between Iraq and neighbouring States in combating terrorism and securing borders". That statement contrasts with, and casts doubt on, the claims made by the United States.

The Syrian Arab Republic is host to over one million Iraqi refugees. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States made no reference to them or to the burden incurred by Syria as a result of reckless United States policies. Those refugees were forced by the United States war and by violence and destruction to abandon their homes and possessions in search of security and stability. Our Government wishes to reiterate its support for a peaceful political process in Iraq and the achievement of peace and stability throughout the country, so that the

refugees and others like them in neighbouring States may return voluntarily to their country and in turn help rebuild what the war has destroyed. This position was shared by all of the States that participated in the International Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Iraq and in Neighbouring Countries, which took place in Geneva on 17 and 18 April 2007.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to reiterate that foreign forces must leave Iraq and ensure the full stability and sovereignty of that country. The United States must refrain from openly intervening in Iraq's internal affairs and hindering the political process. The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the United States to allow Iraqis to complete the process of national reconciliation with a view to achieving peace and security in Iraq. This would ensure a life of dignity for Iraqis of all backgrounds and political affiliations, in an Iraq whose land and people are united and which exists harmoniously within its broader Arab and Islamic context, free from the policies of hypocrisy, aggression and lies that were evident in the statement of the United States Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

(Signed) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative